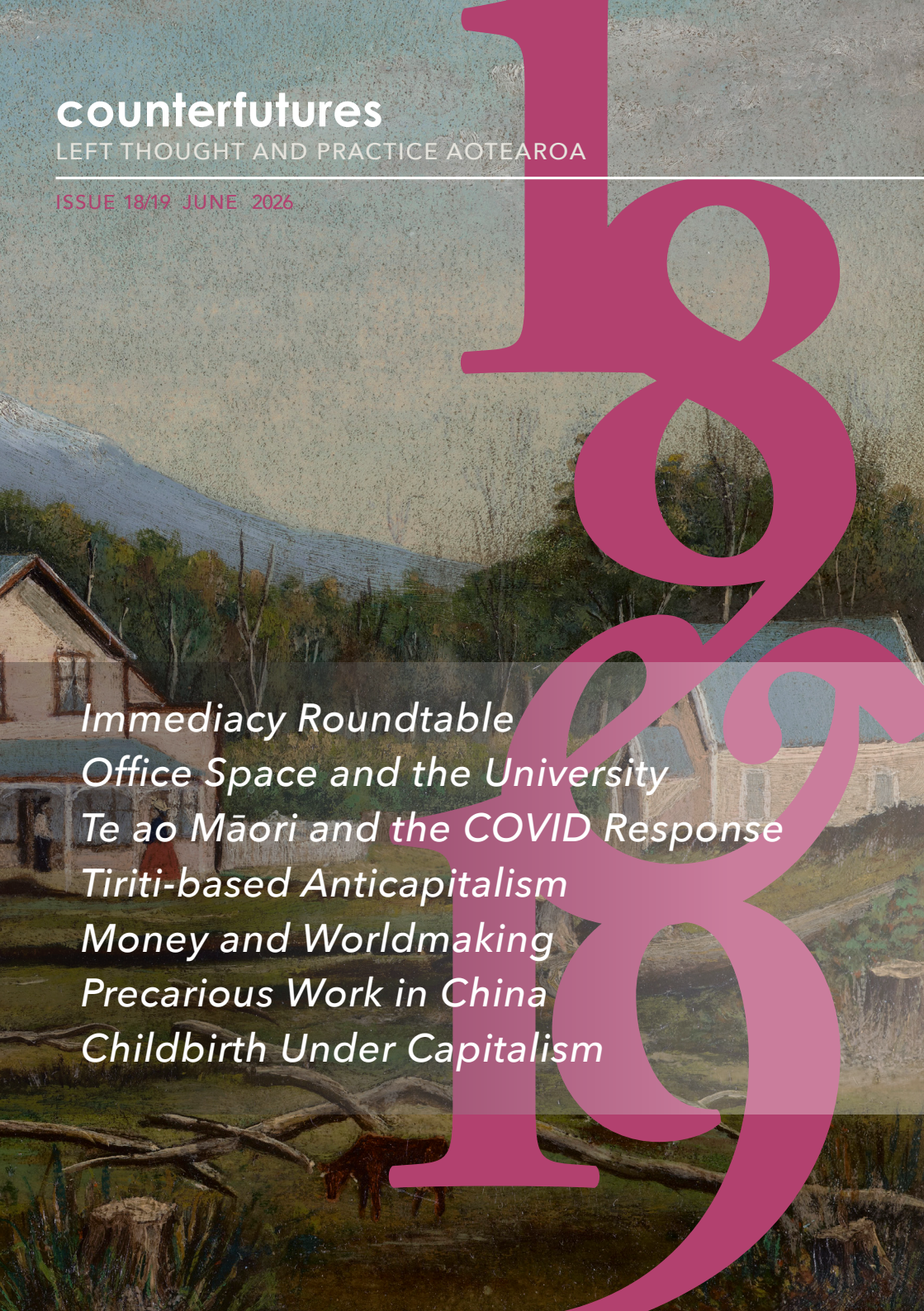




counterfutures

LEFT THOUGHT AND PRACTICE AOTEAROA

ISSUE 18/19 JUNE 2026

Immediacy Roundtable
Office Space and the University
Te ao Māori and the COVID Response
Tiriti-based Anticapitalism
Money and Worldmaking
Precarious Work in China
Childbirth Under Capitalism

Counterfutures is a multidisciplinary journal of Left research, thought, and strategy. It brings together work from across Aotearoa New Zealand's Left, aiming to intervene in, and inaugurate, debates about how to understand and influence our society, politics, culture, and environment.

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liz breslin, APRIL-ROSE GEERS, ARUNDHATI SETHI, LYNLEY EDMEADES,
SABRINA MORO & ROSEMARY OVERELL

A roundtable discussion on Anna Kornbluh's *Immediacy, or, The Style of Too Late Capitalism* (2023) by reading group participants from the Otākou Whakaihu Waka | University of Otago. The contributions extend and critique different aspects of Kornbluh's arguments about the cultural style of contemporary capitalism.

Barricading the Doors: Locking Out Disavowal

MATT RUSSELL & WARWICK TIE

A psychoanalytic reading of contemporary space-use policies in New Zealand universities, illustrating how these policies organise 'disavowal' on the part of management. This enables universities to acknowledge the erosion of the conditions in which academic work can flourish, while continuing to engineer this erosion.

Modelling Mauri: Indigenous Ideas and Aotearoa New Zealand's Covid-19 Response

SOPHIE MOULLIN

An analysis of how te ao Māori informed Covid-19 policies and practices through a reading of two recent studies of the pandemic response. The relational approach taken by Māori communities dovetailed with New Zealand's broader biosecurity approach to Covid-19, providing an alternative to biopolitics as a mode of governance.

Tiriti-based Anticapitalism? Contradictions Within the Settler Left

DANI PICKERING

A close engagement with the Tiriti workers' movement that examines the tensions encountered when challenging both colonisation and capitalism in Aotearoa New Zealand. The reconstruction of settler self-interest, to secure deeper alignment with Indigenous struggle, is proposed as a way forward.

Our Technocratic Times

JACK FOSTER

A review of Leah Downey's *Our Money: Monetary Policy as if Democracy Matters*—a study of central bank independence and its anti-democratic tendencies.

Why We Should Write about Work

ALEX SMITH

A review of Hu Anyan's *I Deliver Parcels in Beijing*, a book that provides a deeply personal yet guarded account of contemporary labour practices in China.

In Solidarity with Those in Labour

IRINA HERB

A review of Anna Fielder's *Going into Labour: Childbirth in Capitalism*, a Marxist analysis of childbirth and birth care.

Author Biographies

liz breslin

Tangata Tiriti poet of Polish and Irish descent. Their latest poem collection is *show you're working out* (Dead Bird Books, 2025). liz works as a tutor / lecturer / teaching fellow at Ōtākou Whakaihū Waka where they completed their PhD.

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Senior lecturer in English and Linguistics at the University of Otago. She is author of four books, most recently *Hiding Places* (Otago University Press, 2025), and the current editor of *Landfall Tauraka: Aotearoa Art and Writing*.

JACK FOSTER

Works in the trade union movement. Studied and taught sociology at Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington.

APRIL-ROSE GEERS

A business owner, communications professional, and writer based in North Canterbury. Her research and writing interests include creative nonfiction, lyric poetry, and creative activism for human rights.

IRINA HERB

An activist and researcher on reproductive justice. Currently a PhD candidate at Friedrich Schiller University Jena, she studies the political economy of (in)fertility and spends as much time as possible in Aotearoa New Zealand with family.

SABRINA MORO

Assistant professor in the Department of Public and Social Communication at the University of Québec in Montréal. Her research explores how celebrity and postfeminist media culture shape cultural understandings of gender-based violence, feminism, and justice.

SOPHIE MOULLIN

A sociologist of inequality, policy, and mental health. With a background in UK social and economic policy, she obtained her PhD from Princeton University in 2022 and is now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Auckland.

ROSEMARY OVERELL

Senior lecturer in the Media, Film and Communication Programme at the University of Otago. Her work draws on psychoanalysis to consider contemporary media and communication.

DANI PICKERING

A Pākehā educator, organiser, and musician based in Te Whanganui-ā-Tara, with whakapapa links to the Scottish Gàidhealtachd, England, Cymru, Éire, and France. Their research interests centre on social movements, the sociology of music, language revitalisation, and the transformation of Indigenous-settler relations.

MATT RUSSELL

Senior tutor at Massey University where he works across the humanities and social sciences. He serves as Secure Work and Academic Staff Representative within the Tertiary Education Union and is Co-Vice President of the TEU's Massey branch.

ARUNDHATI SETHI

An early-career scholar of migration literature, film, and comics, currently based in California. She recently completed her PhD titled 'Spatialized Optics in Contemporary Refugee Comics' at the University of Otago.

ALEX SMITH

A writer and researcher from Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Her research interests are in Chinese political history. She has lived in Shanghai and Taiwan.

WARWICK TIE

Teaches sociology at Massey University. His recent writing includes essays on debt abolition, artificial intelligence, translation in the colonial university, and the future of hope. His work anticipates new forms of collective struggle required by these times.



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Landscape with settlers, circa 1857, Taranaki, by Messenger Sisters. Te Papa (1999-0003-1)

